

ADMINISTRATIVE ADULT

Idaho EMS Guideline
Administrative

ABUSE/NEGLECT

1. Initiate general patient care.
2. Treat and stabilize all injuries.
3. All health care providers are obligated by law to report cases of suspected child or vulnerable adult abuse or neglect to either the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Welfare within 24 hours of discovery. The report to law enforcement or IDHW should be made in a manner that does not aggravate the situation or compromise the safety of the patient or the responders on scene.
 - The patient may present with patterned burns or injuries suggesting intentional infliction, such as: injuries in varying stages of healing, injuries scattered over multiple areas of the body, fractures or injuries inconsistent with stated cause of injury.
 - The patient, parent or caregiver may respond inappropriately to the situation. Malnutrition or extreme lack of cleanliness of the patient or environment may indicate neglect.
4. Discourage patient from washing or changing clothes if sexual abuse is reported or suspected.
5. Document the following information on the *Patient Care Report* or run report:
 - All verbatim statements made by the patient, parent or caregiver shall be placed in quotation marks, including statements made about manner of injuries.
 - Any abnormal behavior of the patient, parent or caregiver.
 - Condition of the environment and other residents present.
 - Time the law enforcement or welfare agency was notified and name of person notified.
 - Name of receiving health care provider and any pertinent medical instructions given.

The Idaho EMS Bureau has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. This guideline is for reference and may be modified at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director. It is recommended that care be based on the patient's clinical presentation and on authorized policies and guidelines.